

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on May 30, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 22 and 25 are amended; as a result, claims 1-36, and 94-102 are now pending in this application.

The amendments made to claims 22 and 25 were suggested by the Examiner and are made to correct informalities relating to antecedent bases. Accordingly, these claim amendments are permissible, and the Applicant respectfully requests that these amendments be entered.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 22-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has corrected the antecedent bases problems of claims 22 and 25. Correspondingly, as indicated by the Examiner in the Final Office Action claims 22-27 are now in condition for allowance, and the Applicant respectfully requests an indication of the same.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 19-21, 28-36 & 94-102 were allowed.

Claims 22-27 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC § 112 set forth in the Office Action. This has been done with the amendments to correct antecedent bases in claims 22 and 25.

Applicant notes that the Examiner indicated claims 20 and 21 were allowed, but then also listed these two claims as subject to a Sec. 112 rejection. Applicant has reviewed the claims and Final Office Action and believes that this was a mere oversight by the Examiner, since claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 19 which was allowed and has no current antecedent basis problem. Therefore, Applicant believes that the Examiner's indication that claims 19-21 are allowed was correct and that there is no present rejection with respect to claim 20 and 21.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Serial Number: 09/653640

Filing Date: August 31, 2000

Title: CONTACT STRUCTURE

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6904 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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Date July 30, 2003

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 30th day of July, 2003.

Name

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